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10116sc

I claim:

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1. A method for providing information related to metered usage of an
2 electronic or digital service consumed by a user, the method comprising the steps of:
receiving data relating to the metered usage of the consumed service;
4 rating the metered usage based on the received data;
generating information based on the rated metered usage; and
6 providing the information via a communication link to a destination location
within a close time proximity to the actual consumption of the service.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising a final step of providing the
2 information to a billing application.

3. The method of claim 1, further comprising a final step of displaying the
2 information on a display device.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the display device further comprises a
2 wireless communication device.

5. The method of claim 3, wherein the display device further comprises a
2 computer.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of generating information further
2 comprises continuously updating the information as the units of service are consumed.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the generated information further
2 comprises an amount owed for consumed service such that the amount owed relates to
the metered consumed units and the assessed rate.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the generated information further
2 comprises a quote related to consumption of service.

9. The method of claim 1, further comprising a step of providing a message
2 notifying a user of an event.

10. A method for providing timely information related to usage of an Internet
2 service, the method comprising the steps of:

providing measured units of Internet service to one or more users;

4 tallying the measured units of Internet service provided to one or more users as
the measured units of Internet service are consumed by one or more users;

6 assessing a rate per measured unit of Internet service consumed by one or more
users as the measured units are tallied;

8 calculating a price associated with the consumed measured units of Internet
service by multiplying the tally of measured units of Internet service with the assessed
10 rate; and

forwarding, within a close time proximity to the consumption of the measured
12 units of Internet service by one or more users, information via a communication link to a
designated location, where the information includes at least one of the tally of the
14 measured unit of Internet service, the assessed rated, and the calculated price.

11. The method according to claim 10, further comprising an initial step of
2 accessing, by one or more users, a connection device connected to the Internet.

12. The method according to claim 11, wherein the connection device further
2 comprises a display device.

13. The method according to claim 12, wherein the display device further
2 comprises a telephone.

14. The method according to claim 13, wherein the telephone utilizes wireless
2 technology.

15. The method according to claim 11, further comprising a final step of
2 displaying the forwarded information on the display device accessed by the user.

16. The method according to claim 10, wherein the forwarded information
2 further comprises the tally, the assessed rate, and the calculated price associated with the
consumed measured units of Internet service.

17. The method according to claim 10, wherein the communication link
2 further comprises the Internet.

18. The method according to claim 10, further comprising the step of
2 purchasing the Internet service prior to providing measured units of Internet service to
one or more users.

19. The method according to claim 18, wherein the forwarded information
2 further comprises data relating to the purchased Internet service not yet consumed.

20. The method according to claim 10, wherein the forwarded information
2 further comprising identification of one or more of the users of the Internet services.

21. The method according to claim 10, further comprising a step of estimating
2 an expense associated with a particular Internet service prior to consumption of the
particular Internet service.

22. The method according to claim 10, further comprising a step of requesting
2 payment of the calculated price for consumed Internet services.

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23. The method according to claim 10, further comprising a step of collecting
2 the calculated price for consumed Internet services.

24. The method according to claim 10, further comprising a step of
2 discounting the calculated price according to a predetermined criterion.